

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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PILGRIM FATHERS OF 1851

Remarkable Norman MacLeod and his happy band

THE amazing voyages and achievements of a community of devout Highlanders, led by a man they looked on as a prophet, is being commemorated this month at St. Ann's, the settlement they founded in Nova Scotia, and which they afterwards left in a home-made ship to sail to Southern Seas. It is just 100 years since they finished building their ship.

Their leader was the Revd. Norman MacLeod, and a tribute to this remarkable Scot is being paid at St. Ann's this month by Flora, Mrs. MacCleod of MacCleod, Chief of the Clan, who flew to Nova Scotia recently.

Norman MacLeod was a powerful preacher in the north-west Highlands at the beginning of the last century. He disagreed with the Church of Scotland and in 1817 decided on emigration to Nova Scotia with 400 of his devoted followers. They went first to Pictou and then to St. Ann's, where in virgin territory they made homes for themselves.

STRICT RULER

Norman MacLeod ruled over them like a strict but loving father of a family, settling all their disputes himself; anyone who was inclined to be obstinate would be denounced from the pulpit! It was written of him that he was like a Highland chief. "He was tall, stout, and strong, kind and generous to his friends, stern to his enemies . . . when the Celt finds a man of this stamp, he is ever ready to admire, adore, obey, and follow him at almost any sacrifice."

Follow him they did—to the ends of the Earth. After they had been at St. Ann's for 31 years, Norman's son at Adelaide, Australia, wrote to him of the opportunities for settlers there. Although he was then 71, Norman told his people that "the Lord had beckoned him to Australia," and many of them set about building their own ships for the voyage!

SHIPS OF BIRCH

This community shipbuilding was one of the most astonishing of their accomplishments. They had mastered the craft in Nova Scotia. They cut down the black birch trees, hauled them to the stocks, and built a taut little decked barque of 236 tons, the Margaret, and another vessel, Highland Lass.

In 1851 about 140 of them, including their beloved leader, set sail in the Margaret, the Highland Lass being icebound in the harbour. The Margaret crossed the Atlantic to the Cape of Good Hope, and then sailed on safely to Adelaide.

Disappointment awaited them after their voyage of over 11,000 miles. They could find no suitable land at Adelaide, and so they sailed on to Melbourne, only to be

disappointed again. Then the Highland Lass arrived and the whole community decided to make for New Zealand.

In January 1853 these 18th-century Pilgrim Fathers reached Auckland. Their wanderings were over, but they were faced once more with the grim adventure of carving homes and farms out of the wilderness some 100 miles north of Auckland.

NEW SETTLEMENT

Again a virgin forest rang with their axe-strokes as they cleared the ground for a settlement.

At Waipu, as their new home was called, they prospered. They wrote to their friends in faraway Nova Scotia to tell of their good fortune, and the Gaelic people there built more ships and came to Waipu.

Norman MacLeod continued to be their undisputed leader, preaching to them in Gaelic, and maintaining their Highland traditions and customs—dances, music,

Continued on page 2

SEARCH FOR A LOST RACE

Led by Mr. Bernard Carp of Cape Town, a well-known explorer of the African hinterland, an expedition has left Windhoek to study one of the least-known parts of Africa, the Kakaovelt, and to search there for traces of a lost native race.

Better known to seafarers as the Skeleton Coast, the Kakaovelt stretches from the Cunene River to Swakopmund, hundreds of miles along the south-west African coast. It is one of the most arid and desolate regions in the world.

The lost race, believed to have died out in the 19th century, was known as the Strandlopers, a word coined many years ago to indicate "walkers along the coast." But last year hunters reported seeing a small group of Strandlopers in the remote mountains.

The Strandlopers are placed by anthropologists in a category even lower than Bushmen, and the discovery of the existence of remnants of this sub-race of humans would be of great importance.

Scientists accompanying the party will collect specimens of bird, animal, and plant life for European and Commonwealth museums.

Oyez! Oyez!



Brighton's Town Crier, who will be a busy man during the town's Festival season, beginning on July 16.

AN EXPLORING HOLIDAY IN ICELAND

Weeks of tough living and adventure in a wild and uninhabited northern land is not everyone's idea of a summer holiday; but it is to just such a holiday that the lads of the British Schools Exploring Society (formerly the Public Schools Exploring Society) are now looking forward.

The society's expedition is to go to Ireland at the end of this month, and there until the middle of September they will explore desolate lava-fields, glaciers, and volcanoes. They will probably make their headquarters in the centre of the island, near the Hofsjökull, an icefield some 30 miles long and 20 miles wide.

DESERTED COUNTRY

They will certainly have the place all to themselves, for the interior of Iceland is deserted; indeed, only about a quarter of the country is inhabited.

The hardy lads, who will camp near an ice-desert, are between 16½ and 18. They come from Public and Secondary schools, and their leaders will be officers of the Royal Navy, Army, and R.A.F.

From Hofsjökull the young explorers will set out in parties to gather information of scientific value, and collect specimens for the British Museum. Some will study bird, animal, insect, and plant life; others will carry out surveys for making maps, and examine ice and geological formations. They will find their own way, for no Icelandic guides will go with them. They will keep in touch with one another by radio.

VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE

Information gained by the society's previous expedition has often proved valuable. Last year, in the wilds of Norway, the boys made a detailed map of 48 square miles of very difficult country, including the whole of the Kildetoppen glacier. In a 14-day hike they scaled Björntoppen, 4800 feet, while the bird-watchers made notes of 70 different species for the British Museum, the "bug-hunters" brought back 100 specimens, and the botanists 35 different species of flowers and grasses.

They also obtained much useful information about weather conditions, geology, and the extent to which the ice had receded.

THE WOOD PIGEON ON TRIAL

An investigation of the wood pigeon's way of life has been carried out by Mr. M. K. Colquhoun, of the British Trust for Ornithology, and his most complete report has now been published by the Stationery Office.

He found that 100 wood pigeons eat between 11 lbs. and 14 lbs. of food a day, showing a decided preference for beechmast, acorns, haws, and ivy berries, as well as seed corn, beans, peas, and weeds in their season. Only when these

cannot be found does the bird turn to gleanings from the stubble and to garden crops.

Mr. Colquhoun states that probably only 20 to 30 per cent of the bird's eggs ever hatch out, owing to the thieving habits of magpies, jays, and squirrels, and he is of the opinion that no further reduction in numbers is necessary.

The report provides useful material for argument, both for the friends and the enemies of the wood pigeon.

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COMMUNIST SETBACK IN FRANCE & ITALY

THE results of the recent elections held in France and Italy show a welcome decline in the power of the Communists in both countries.

Although the Second World War saw France and Italy ranged on opposing sides, their post-war history and problems have been remarkably alike. This applies especially to political life.

Although some years ago Italian and French Communists were represented in the national governments, their present opposition is believed to be no ordinary fight. The growing split between East and West and the participation of Italian and French Communist parties in the Cominform (the body controlling Communist movements in many parts of the world) has led Communists to engage in an often unscrupulous struggle against their Governments.

SUCCESS OF MARSHALL PLAN

A particular target in this offensive has become the European Recovery Programme. Therefore, it is remarkable that, despite this opposition, Marshall Aid has proved a success, though admittedly the Korean war has slowed down Continental recovery.

Against this background the elections were widely considered to be a test of Italian or French confidence in the respective Government's economic policy (based naturally on Marshall Aid programme) and of their faith in Parliamentary democracy and its institutions. Seen from this angle the results of the voting have proved satisfactory. The existing majorities remained in power.

In the elections in Italy (held on a national scale but only for local Government bodies) a combination of democratic parties

succeeded in wresting control from Communists in such key cities as Milan, Venice, and Ancona. There has, however, been a sharp increase of neo-Fascist voters, followers of the much discredited Benito Mussolini, the late dictator of Italy, and even a slight rise in Communist votes.

The General Election in France gave somewhat similar results. An electoral alliance of all middle-of-the-road parties (the so-called Third Force) proved to be the strongest combination. It obtained the largest number of seats, though the total number of votes it received was smaller than in 1946. Again, a Right-wing party sponsored by General de Gaulle (leader of French Resistance during the late war) surprisingly obtained over three and a half million votes and as many as 117 seats, thereby becoming the strongest single group in the French Parliament.

MILLION LOST VOTES

The Communists lost heavily in seats with 100 as against 169, though the number of votes cast was over four million and a fourth of the total. At the previous election there were five and a half million Communist votes.

The significance of the French and Italian elections can, broadly speaking, be described thus:

It is certain that the majority of voters in those countries wish to continue along the present road. The extremist parties of the Left and Right are still in a minority, but their activities must be closely watched for the good of the nations concerned.

NATIONAL THEATRE FOR BRITAIN

A project planned nearly half a century ago will be advanced another stage on Friday, July 13, when the Queen lays the foundation stone of the National Theatre on the South Bank. The site, next to the Royal Festival Hall, is within a comparatively short distance of Bankside, Southwark, where Shakespeare staged his plays in the famous Globe Theatre 350 years ago.

The first plans for a National Theatre were drawn up in 1903 by William Archer and Granville Barker and ten years later a scheme for a Shakespeare Memorial National Theatre was launched.

By 1914 the appeal for funds had produced £150,000, and it was planned to lay the foundation stone in 1916 on the tercentenary

of Shakespeare's death. But these plans were shattered by the outbreak of the First World War.

Not till 1937 did the National Theatre Committee feel justified in purchasing a site in South Kensington, opposite the Victoria and Albert Museum. Two years later their hopes were again frustrated by war.

Nevertheless, during the war, by arrangement with the London County Council, the South Kensington site was exchanged for a new site on the South Bank, and in 1949 the National Theatre Bill, which empowers the Government to contribute up to a million pounds towards the building, was passed by Parliament.

It is the foundation stone of this building which the Queen will lay this week.

PILGRIM FATHERS

Continued from page 1

poetry. He died aged 86 in 1866. Today Waipu is a thriving locality and most of the inhabitants are descendants of the pioneering Highlanders, who are commemorated by a monument of red Aberdeen granite. In Nova

Scotia a Gaelic college has been founded on the site of Norman MacLeod's home there.

Those hardy enterprising Highlanders, inspired by a quiet but burning faith, are an outstanding example of Scotland's great contribution towards the making of the British Commonwealth.

FINLAND'S PROBLEM ISLANDS

The Aaland Islands, lying midway between the mainland of Finland and Sweden at the entrance to the Gulf of Bothnia, and long regarded as the problem islands of the Baltic, are in the news again.

Finland has been forced by Russian pressure to drop the clause in a Finnish Act of Parliament proposing to give the island dominion status under international guarantee.

The Aaland Islands have always enjoyed special privileges, and were formerly guaranteed by the League of Nations as neutral and unfortified. The fishermen and farmers who inhabit them still speak Swedish, although the islands have been part of Finland since 1809, when Russia severed Finland from Sweden.

Lighthouse's 100 years



The Chapman Lighthouse in the Thames Estuary celebrates its centenary this year.

LOYAL JACKDAWS

A lady found four jackdaws protecting an injured young jackdaw from four cats in a lane at Pontnewynydd recently.

The lady, who happened to be the superintendent of the Pontypool Branch of Our Dumb Friends' League, drove off the cats, picked up the injured bird, and took it to her headquarters.

The four brave jackdaws followed, and when their friend was put in a rabbit hutch they stayed "talking" to him continuously until dark.

The next day they again visited the invalid, and on the following morning, the superintendent opened the hutch to see if the young jackdaw had recovered sufficiently to fly. He at once flew out and departed with his four good companions.

MODEL PLANES COMPETE

Saturday, July 14, will see model aircraft being flown in Wembley Stadium, home of so many outstanding sporting events.

All the models will be tethered by means of two thin wires, and fly in circles round the "pilot." This is known as control-line flying, and is now a popular sport. Models will compete in various classes for speed and aerobatics. The world's record speed for piston-engine models is over 150 m.p.h., and over 170 for jets!

News From Everywhere

AFTER 300 YEARS

A commemorative tablet has been placed on the wall of the building in Thame, Oxon, where John Hampden died after being wounded in the Battle of Chalgrove in 1643.

Some 36,000 tractors were in use on farms in New Zealand last year—nine times as many as in 1930.

Festival Features

Windsor Castle and St. George's Chapel are to be floodlit every Saturday and Sunday until the end of the Festival.

Bolton Castle, Wensleydale, Yorks, will be colourful with 16th-century costumes and furnishings for the four days July 25-28. A Tudor Fair in the courtyard will provide period attractions.

Included in Scarborough's Festival attractions for the remainder of the summer is a reproduction on Peasholm Lake of the River Plate battle which ended in the destruction of the German battleship Graf Spee in 1941.

Forward a Century, produced by the Petroleum Film Bureau, has been selected for showing in August at the Venice Film Festival as one of the special films made to commemorate the Festival of Britain.

After a 5000-mile trip from Belgium to Kitchener, Ontario, a crate of glass valued at about £3500 was dropped and smashed outside the offices of the firm which ordered it.

A Russian language course on gramophone records has been presented to Camberwell Borough Council by Lord Ammon.

When a golfer at Wellington, New Zealand, broke his club part of it flew into the air and landed on an electric power pole switch, causing a flash-over. Hundreds of houses and shops in the vicinity were left without electricity for over an hour.

An edible mushroom weighing 13 lbs. was found by a small boy in Budapest.

An Indian industrialist has offered an annual prize of £1000 for the work most likely to popularise science.

The Orkney island of Egilsay, where St. Magnus was martyred nearly 900 years ago, is to be sold.

Good quality newsprint is now being manufactured from eucalyptus timber in India.

Colour television on a commercial basis has begun in New York with a one-hour special show by the Columbia system.

An oboe exhibition to the Royal Academy of Music has been won by 12-year-old Michael Gardener, of Hanworth Road, Hampton, Surrey.

First in Maths.

A German-made electrical calculator now being installed at the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, to solve differential equations does the day's work of a trained mathematician in ten minutes.

Kingswood School, founded at Bristol in 1748 by John Wesley for the sons of Wesleyan ministers, has celebrated the 100th anniversary of its removal to Bath.

An English garden planned for West Berlin as a memorial to Anglo-German friendship has been sponsored by Major General G. K. Bourne, the British commandant.

It is proposed to set up a memorial statue of David Livingstone outside the headquarters of the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington.

Sir John Wilson, Keeper of the King's Philatelic Collection, is publishing a book on the royal collection in the autumn. The task has occupied more than four years.

TROUSER SOS

When the engine of the converted lifeboat Friend of all Nations broke down off Berry Head, South Devon, Skipper R. Kemble used his trousers as a distress signal. A Brixham trawler took the lifeboat in tow.

Children in British Guiana are being encouraged to plant coconuts in a drive to boost production. The Agricultural Department is distributing *to schoolchildren 10,000 sprouted nuts.

10 Beautiful Festival Poster Stamps in Gold Lettered Souvenir Folder



This attractive and lasting souvenir tells the wonderful story of Britain's Festival in pictures that you'll be proud to own or send to an overseas pen friend. Ask Mum or Dad to buy a set for you. Tell them that every set helps the Blind of Greater London.

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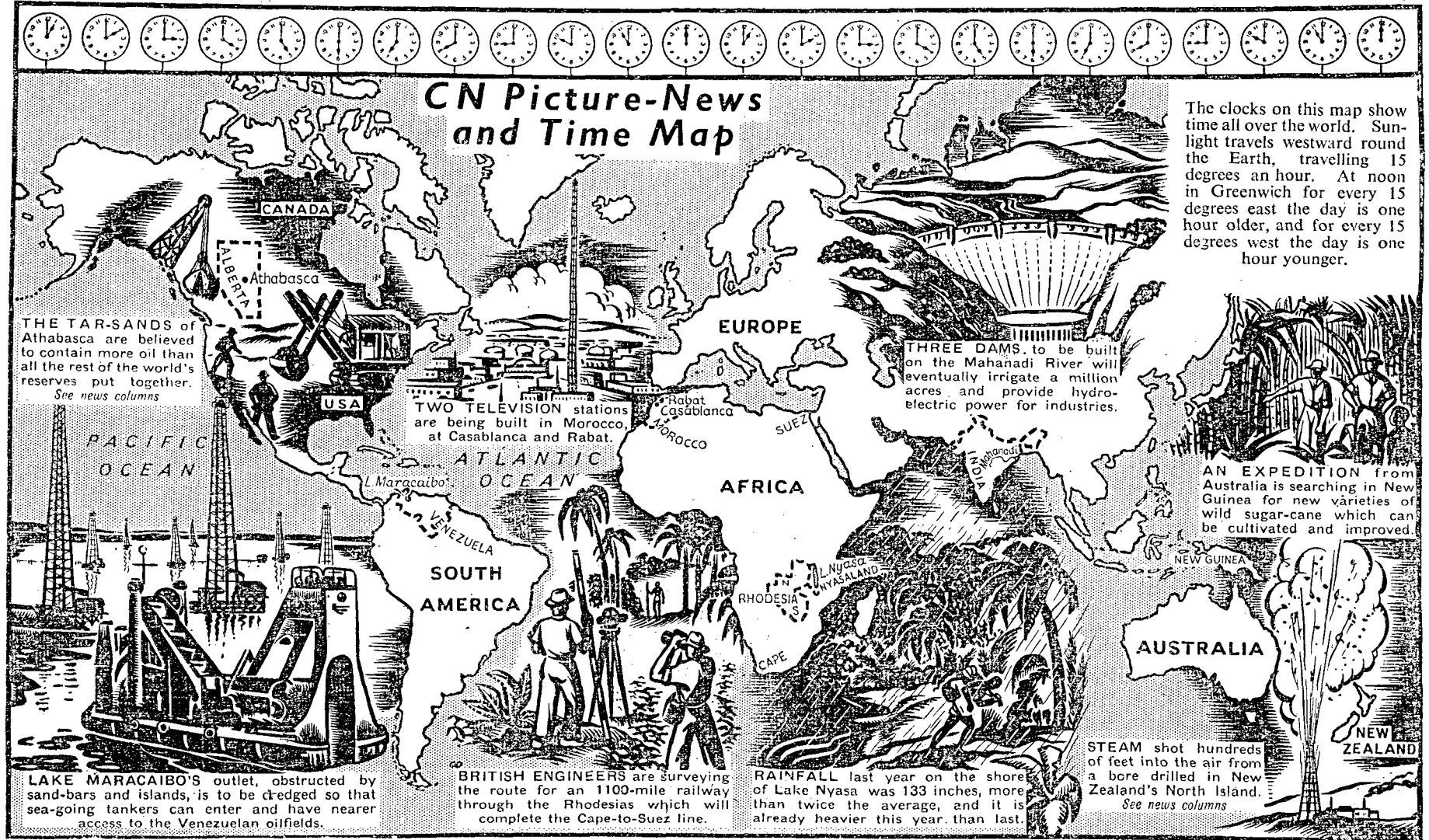
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WHERE OIL IS SHOVELLED UP

The usual method of obtaining oil is by drilling the ground, but the rich tar-sands of Athabasca in North Alberta, Canada, are being made to yield their supplies by bulldozer and earth-shifting apparatus.

Nobody can yet say how much oil there is in these sands, but it is believed that they contain more oil than all the other reserves of the world put together. Now, by means of a new technique for separating the oil from the sand, the rich harvest is being made available.

There are hundreds of square miles of the tar-sands in Alberta, and the Provincial Government have spent nearly a million dollars on a plant to process 500 barrels of oil a day. Operations over an area of some five square miles have proved an oil content averaging 200 million barrels of oil per square mile. If the oil is recovered at the rate of 20,000 barrels a day—a target figure which has been suggested as economical—one square mile would last 30 years!

See World Map

TAMED HAWK

A female sparrowhawk crashed through a barracks window in Lisburn, North Ireland, and was knocked unconscious. The bird was forwarded to a naturalist and after a few days' treatment was eating out of its benefactor's hand. Then it flew off to continue with the urgent business of nesting in a neighbouring pine.

HALF-A-SHIP AHOY!

A half-ship is sailing home from Japan to Europe. She is the Swedish vessel Christer Salen, which broke in two after striking a submerged wreck last February.

The aft part of the vessel was eventually salvaged, but the estimate for repairs in Japan was so high that a blunt dummy bow was built just forward of the bridge, and with the makeshift painted white the Christer Salen is gallantly steaming home for permanent repairs. She still carries some cargo in her holds.

This is possibly the longest voyage ever attempted by a half-ship, particularly by a dry cargo vessel. Tankers, which are composed of a number of watertight compartments, have often remained afloat after breaking in two, and one or both halves have lived to sail another day.

WHAT A BOAR!

An Australian miner, "Knobby" Clarke, was trapped in a tree for 15 hours by an enraged boar and two crocodiles recently. He wounded the boar when shooting near his camp at Finnis River, 40 miles south of Darwin, and when the boar turned to attack, pulled the trigger again, but missed.

He dropped his rifle and climbed a tree overhanging the river, meaning to jump in and swim to the other side. Looking down, however, he saw the two crocodiles cruising up and down, so decided to postpone his departure. After 15 hours the boar ended the vigil, and Clarke descended the tree.

AMERICA'S BEST SPELLER

Irving Fisher, a 13-year-old boy from Tennessee, is America's best speller. In a national spelling bee, in which four million American boys and girls under 16 competed, he scored the highest number of points. His prize was 500 dollars and a week-end trip to New York, where he attended a banquet given in his honour.

Since the contest first began, 26 years ago, there have been 16 girl champions.

NATIONAL PARK IN YUGOSLAVIA

The last stretch of primitive forest in Yugoslavia, in the republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, is to be preserved as a national park. To this day bears, wolves, boar, and other wild animals have their haunts there, and it was to ensure that the forest should remain a sanctuary for these animals that the decision to make it a national park was taken by the Government of Yugoslavia.

BOYS' CLUB ON BARGE

Hull boys hope soon to have a floating club with a permanent berth in Victoria Dock. Steps have already been taken to purchase an old barge and to recondition it with workshops, games-rooms, and sleeping quarters for about 30 boys.

A committee, which will be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the floating club, have launched an appeal for £1000 to finance the scheme.

HERMIT OF MILFORD

New Zealanders who have visited Milford Sound, one of the show places for tourists visiting the Dominion, have urged their Government to build a cairn or other suitable memorial to Donald Sutherland, the Hermit of Milford, who discovered the Sutherland Falls, a series of cascades 1904 feet high.

It was in 1876 that Donald Sutherland, a Scotsman, went to lonely Milford, and he remained there until his death 43 years later. He was married in 1890 and he and his wife were the only people who lived at Milford Sound all the year round.

Mrs. Sutherland died four years after her husband. She refused to leave Milford Sound. Donald and Elizabeth Sutherland lie buried in a small enclosure in a tangled glade behind the accommodation house that serves tourists.

OLD SWORD COMES TO LIGHT

Among some 1600 finds—including coins, pottery, pipes, and jewellery—the most valuable during excavations for the new power station at Bankside, Southwark, was a sword, still so sharp that the workman who found it nearly cut himself.

Experts believe it to be a 14th-century battle sword. The Tower of London, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Wallace Collection all wish to possess this weapon, which might have been carried by a knight at Crecy. But by law the owners are the British Electricity Authority.

BURIED STEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Hole-borers, searching for underground reservoirs of natural steam in New Zealand's North Island, achieved spectacular results when they uncapped a bore they had driven to a depth of about 700 feet.

A roaring jet of steam rose hundreds of feet into the air. Debris and rock, torn out from lower regions by the rush of steam, were shot up the steel casing of the bore 1000 feet into the air above it, where rocks burst like shells, the explosions adding to the general din.

The engineers had indeed released elemental forces from subterranean regions, but, after some hours of deafening uproar, the bore became choked with large chunks of rock. It was cleared by means of renewed drilling, and the steam burst forth again.

This man-made geyser is one of numerous experimental borings carried out to discover where and how the North Island's great reserves of steam can be used to generate electric power.

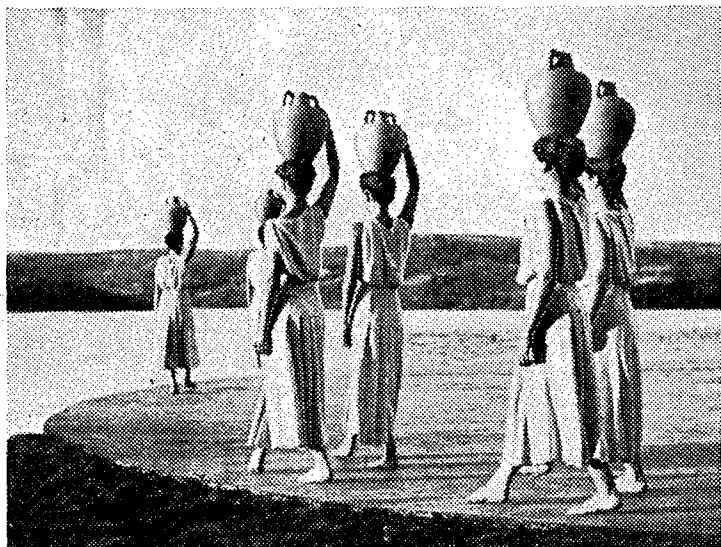
See World Map

HEART OF OAK

The 600-year-old oak on the green at Northiam, Sussex, had its hollow trunk filled with concrete some years ago and was then bound with strong chains.

But it continued to grow and now it has burst its bonds—the mighty chains have snapped. Tradition has it that in 1573 Queen Elizabeth stopped beneath this tree exciting

ON THE SHORES OF MARATHON



These graceful water-carriers are taking part in a festival on the shores of Lake Marathon, which supplies Athens with its water.

TESTING FOOD IS TRYING WORK

According to a Food and Agricultural Organisation report, one of the strangest jobs in the world is organoleptic testing, which means testing food by means of taste, smell, sight, and feeling.

Says the report: "Noise, extraneous smells, loud colours, or having to stand disturbs and tries the tester."

Many food-processing plants give their testers a private room each, where they can work undisturbed in absolute quiet. Food samples are passed to them through openings in the walls.

Not everyone can take up this work, for many people are "taste blind," particularly where bitter flavours are concerned. Qualities most necessary are age, careful training, and a good organoleptic memory.

To be perfectly certain of the qualities of a food sample, it has been estimated that it would be necessary to take the opinions of from 400 to 600 testers. However, reasonably reliable results are obtained from 10 to 20 testers, provided they are familiar with the product they are sampling.



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HE TAUGHT HARROW TO SING

John Farmer, music master at Harrow from 1862 to 1885, died on July 17 just 50 years ago; but his memory is imperishable, for he composed the school's famous song, Forty Years On.

John Farmer had a gift for writing the rousing yet faintly wistful tunes that boys love. With Edward Bowen, a fellow master who wrote many of the words, he produced songs like Willow the King, and marches with such titles as The Cricketers and The Best Score, enshrining the life and sports of the school.

It was due to him that the unique Harrow tradition of "house singing" was introduced. Each house gathers several times a term to sing the school songs, and each boy in turn is allowed to choose a song and the boy he wishes to sing it.

ENERGETIC LEADER

The music master would lead the singing with immense energy. Bathed in perspiration, grimacing, and miming the words, he had the boys roaring with laughter. To this day many an old Harrovian, and old boys of other schools, too, cannot hear Forty Years On without a surge of boyhood memories. No school is so rich in its collection of songs.

The man who gave Harrow this tradition and composed many of its songs was born in Nottingham on August 16, 1835. As a boy John Farmer taught himself to play the piano, the violin, and the harp, and would knock music out of almost any object to amuse his friends.

At 14 he went to study music at Leipzig and Coburg, and later supported himself in Zurich by teaching; but in 1861 he returned to England and while giving piano recitals at the International Exhibition in the following year, a chance encounter opened a new chapter of his life. Some old Harrovians visited the exhibition and were so impressed by his playing that they persuaded him to take charge of a small Harrow musical society, unconnected with the school.

TRUE VOCATION

Within two years John Farmer had joined the school staff as music master. His true vocation had begun. He set himself to make music a part of the life of every boy in the school, and with the help of Bowen's appealing words he succeeded. He wrote tunes that could be whistled, and these were set to words like:

*Oh! have you, with Euclid before you,
Full often despairingly sat.
The Fifth Proposition to floor you,
Your mind getting blank as your hat?*

In 1885 he accepted an invitation from the celebrated Dr. Jowett to become organist at Balliol College, Oxford. While he was there he lent his warm-hearted enthusiasm to popularising the best classical music.

He died on July 17, 1901.

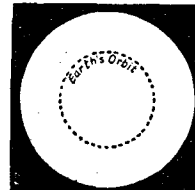
WHERE TO LOOK FOR THE LARGEST SUN

By the CN Astronomer

THE southern sky will reveal, as soon as it is dark enough, a very bright reddish star not far above the horizon.

It is the brightest in that region, and is in the centre of a group of six others, as shown on our star-map. This is the great Antares, the Heart of the Scorpion, the immense constellation of Scorpio of which these stars form only a part.

Antares is one of the wonders of the heavens. It is a sun so immense that if it were as near as our own Sun it would cover most of the sky at midday, for Antares has a diameter which varies between 285 million and 389 million miles. It thus attains the stupendous width of some 450 times greater than that of our Sun, which is only 864,000 miles in diameter.



The only Earth's orbit if known rival placed inside to Antares is

Alpha-in-Hercules, which at the height of its periods of expansive outbursts reaches a diameter about 400 times greater than our Sun.

Antares, too, is subject to intense expansive increases in its immensity, being in a much more gaseous and rarified condition than our Sun. It consists of a glowing mass of whirling currents of flame, the whole of the colossal sphere being in rapid rotation, and in a state of most violent commotion as its vast atmosphere of fiery gases expands and contracts.

If Antares were as near to us as our Sun, the Earth could not exist. It would long ago have become just one more flame, a mere wisp comparatively for Antares.

But Antares is nearly 21 million times farther away than our Sun, and its terrific radiations of light, heat, and other energies take some 325 years to reach us.

This stellar jewel has long been known to include a bright green ray among its rosy scintillations.

A-MOULTING THEY WILL GO

During this week and next, British bird-watchers are asked to keep a sharp look-out for Sheld-Ducks, which are off to the Heligoland Bight. These handsome birds cross the North Sea on a queer sort of summer holiday—to moult—and flocks of them may now be spotted by sharp eyes, flying eastwards from their homes on the West Coast.

The Sheld-Duck (commonly called the Sheldrake) is a fine big bird, black and white, with a broad chestnut band across its breast. It makes its home on tidal flats.

The moulting season seems a strange one to choose for a summer holiday. Why not moult at home and go away when your feathers are new and glossy? one might ask. But Mr. and Mrs. Sheld-Duck have some mysterious reason of their own for going so far to moult, and the International Wildfowl Research Institute, which through its volunteer bird-watchers has already found

and this can be seen from time to time in a clear dark sky. It was eventually found to come from a small, greenish companion sun which radiates little over 20 times more light than our Sun.

Beta-in-Scorpio (also known as Graffias) is a second-magnitude star composed of at least four great suns, the central pair radiating about 1200 times more light and heat than our Sun. They are but some 18 million miles apart and revolve around a centre of gravity between them in only 63 days at terrific speed.

The other two suns are a great distance away, probably revolving round the great central pair.

The whole system is about 28,480,000 times farther away than our Sun.

Sigma-in-Scorpio is another great sun which has a much smaller planetary sun accompanying it at a great distance away; these are about 362 light years' distant.

The bright star Epsilon appears so near to the horizon that it can only be seen in a very clear sky. It is much nearer than the others, being at a distance of 86 light years.

If this star-map be compared with that in the issue of June 30 it will be seen how small a proportion of Scorpio can now be observed from Britain. But the whole of it could be seen 10,000 years ago.

G. F. M.



The seven chief stars of Scorpio now visible from Britain

Very Much in the News—Reuters is 100

WHAT is Reuters and how did it come into being?

It is, briefly, the greatest international news agency in the world, and its business is to gather news from all countries and to transmit that news to all other countries as swiftly and as accurately as possible. It was founded exactly 100 years ago by Julius Reuter, one-time German bank clerk, who later became a naturalised Englishman.

It was in the late summer of 1851 that Julius Reuter came to London to start his news agency. Reuter had seen the introduction of the electric telegraph and had dreamed of the day when he would control a news agency which would serve all the world's newspapers.

THE name Reuters is a household word throughout the world. It appears at the foot of the news messages in the newspapers; it is mentioned on the radio; and the words, "Reuters' correspondent reports . . ." must be familiar to everyone. Now the famous news agency is in the news itself, for it is celebrating its hundredth anniversary.

But he had begun his business of news gathering in Germany by employing pigeons and not the electric telegraph to carry his messages.

IN his first year in London Reuter had only one assistant—a 12-year-old boy named John Griffiths. Young Griffiths soon demonstrated that he was a pupil worthy of his master, and proved to be as eager to develop the business as Reuter himself.

On one occasion while Reuter was lunching in a City chop-house young John dashed in and gasped, "A foreign-looking sort of gentleman came to see you, sir."

"Why did you let him go?" demanded Reuter.

"I didn't, sir," the lad answered; "I've locked him in the office!"

Julius Reuter had a hard struggle in the first years to realise his dream. The newspapers were suspicious of his new

service, and many preferred to rely on the mail ship and the coach to bring them their news, even though that meant it would be months old when they published it.

REUTER did everything he could to make his service better than those of his competitors. He even built telegraph lines to carry his news.

One line from Cork to Crookhaven on the south-west tip of Ireland was built to speed up the news from America. From Crookhaven his own little ship would put out to sea in all weathers and at all times of the day and night to intercept the Atlantic mail ships, and pick up the messages which were thrown overboard by the ships' officers in special canisters.

He built the first telegraph line between Britain and Germany and opened up the connection with India by way of Russia and Persia.

On several occasions the long line was broken once by a whale which carried away the wire, at another time by the winter snows of the high Caucasus mountains, and yet again by desert nomads, who coveted the copper.

BUT as the years went by the name of Reuters spread throughout the world. This British agency became the most trusted of any. Queen Victoria received every message which came to London, and often commented to her ministers in such terms as "Reuter says so, and he is generally right."

And now Reuters is celebrating its centenary. The dream of Julius Reuter which began to take shape in the little two-roomed office at No. 1 Royal Exchange, just 100 years ago, is reality today in the great grey Portland stone building at 85 Fleet Street, which is the London headquarters of the agency.

There is a Reuters office in almost every country in the



The Trumpeter of Fleet Street—a gilded figure over the door of Reuters' London headquarters

world. Throughout the 24 hours of the day, and on every day of the year, Reuters correspondents everywhere are sending their messages to London by telegraph, by telephone, and by radio. The machine seen in the left foreground of the big photograph at the bottom of this page is the radio teleprinter which provides a 24-hour service between New York and London—in both directions.

In London sub-editors handle these messages from everywhere, and then send them out again to thousands of newspapers at home and abroad by teleprinter and by radio. Work never stops; the machines never cease running and there is a ceaseless picture of speed and urgency.

REUTERS is a Trust owned by all the newspapers of Britain, and by the Press of Australia and New Zealand and India. On its staff are men and women of a score of nationalities. British and French, Spanish and Indian, Portuguese and Bulgarian, Chinese and Italian, Czechoslovakian and African, German and Filipino, Australian and Japanese, and many others, work together with one ideal—to report the news with accuracy, with speed, and without bias.

That was the basic rule of Julius Reuter when he founded the agency a century ago, and it is the rule of Reuters today.



Pictures from the Past—Julius Reuter, the founder of the great news agency, from a portrait painted by Rudolf Lehmann in 1859. (Right) A smiling messenger of yesteryear—a familiar figure in pre-war Fleet Street



The Central Desk in the Fleet Street headquarters of Reuters which handles incoming news dispatches from all over the world



The Chief News Editor of Reuters, Mr. Sidney J. Mason (left) and the Assistant Editor, Mr. Geoffrey Imeson

Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House
Whitefriars · London · E C 4

JULY 14 1951

NEW NATIONAL PLAYGROUND

IT is glad news for the people of these crowded islands that the glorious open space of Snowdonia is to be theirs as a playground for ever; its establishment as a National Park has been officially confirmed.

Thus the region of the highest mountain in Wales becomes a great national sanctuary for the rambler and the climber, and, indeed, for all who sometimes find the world is too much with them and yearn to escape awhile from the workaday round.

AND what riches it offers! What a wealth of varied scenery! Here, in addition to the rugged grandeur of Snowdon's own group of mountains, are heather-clad slopes and lovely woodlands, sandbanks, and shining pools. Here can be seen the rare pine-marten in the forest and wild goats on mist-curtained heights. Here can be seen rare birds, such as buzzards and peregrine falcons. Here are plants to delight the botanist.

The barriers are down. Snowdonia is a great and glorious estate that belongs to us all. Let us remember, whenever and wherever we may wander, to leave it as we find it—an unspoiled corner of this dear, dear land.



Under the Editor's Table

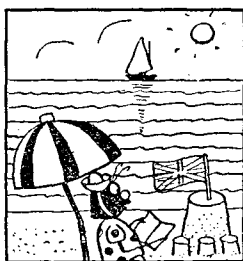
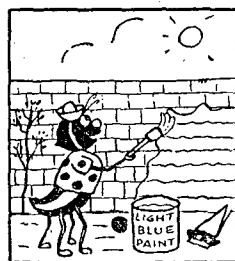
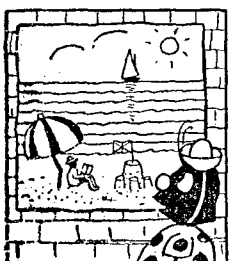
PETER PUCK
WANTS TO
KNOW

Where are the clowns
in Piccadilly Circus?

A man has been studying the intelligence of adders. Says they know how to put two and two together.

M.P.s are tired of all-night sittings. Think they should be altered by standing orders.

BILLY BEETLE



BANISHING CRUELTY TO WILD ANIMALS

MANY of our readers will be disappointed at some of the findings of the Committee on Cruelty to Wild Animals, whose report was recently published (Stationery Office, 3s. 6d.). For the Committee suggest that hunting should be allowed, provided that unnecessary suffering is not caused.

Everyone agrees that our wild animals must be kept in check, but what CN readers have always deplored is that people should apparently take pleasure in harrying their fellow creatures.

The Committee, however, make the excellent suggestion that persons should be prosecuted for causing unnecessary suffering to wild animals as well as to those in captivity. Welcome, too, is their recommendation that gin-traps, which they describe as "diabolical instruments," should be banned by law as soon as possible.

He needs 1,200,000 teachers

A REMARKABLE man came into London recently, dressed in a western style suit but speaking the ancient language of Urdu. His name is Abdul Kalam Azad, and he is the Indian Minister of Education.

He faces one of the biggest educational tasks in the world, for he has the responsibility for teaching millions of children to read and write. His plan is to eradicate illiteracy by 1963, and he needs 1,200,000 teachers to help him.

Although a Moslem—he is one of the world's great authorities on the Koran—Abdul Kalam Azad works devotedly for a Hindu country. He rightly believes that to abolish illiteracy is the best way to ensure permanent peace between India and Pakistan.

Always buy a child's jacket too large for him, says a mother. It will suit him down to the ground.

A composer is going to illustrate musically the life of the spider. We all know it hangs on a thread.

Many boys prefer jobs in the open air. When in work like to be out.

A certain magazine is said to be the organ of the book trade. A volume of sound.

The Editor's Table

UNDAUNTED

Boys of Worcester College for the Blind have shown themselves undaunted in adversity.

When General Lord Ismay, Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind, visited the college recently, he was told that nine boys leaving this term had passed the School Certificate examination, and three the Higher School Certificate. One of them has taken a special science diploma at Reading University, another is going to the Royal Academy of Music, and the third is taking a course at the London School of Economics.

Mr Churchill's Arms



In Copenhagen last year, Mr. Winston Churchill was made a Knight of the Elephant, the highest Danish order. Now his Coat-of-Arms has been set up in Frederiksborg Castle.

His crowded hour

NEVER will Hamilton Richardson forget his first appearance at Wimbledon.

Two years ago he had no more idea of playing there than of swimming the Atlantic. Then, last year, he won the Junior Championship of America and it was suggested that he should go to Wimbledon.

That was how Ham found himself on No. 1 Court, facing the holder of the Men's Championship, his fellow-countryman Budge Patty.

It was the sort of situation many young players might dream on; but for Ham it was no dream—there was no time to dream. He suffers from diabetes and, to make matters more difficult, he had an attack of cramp.

He battled on to victory, and though he eventually was mastered he will return to school in America with the congratulation and good wishes of every tennis player in the world.

THE DAY WILL COME

And they that dwell apart shall know each other,
And they that hymn their solemn songs alone
Shall hear far voices mingling with their own,
And understand the utterance of a brother

In every tongue and tone.
Frederick Tennyson

BENEFITS OF STAYING ON AT SCHOOL

"GRAMMAR schools are not fully achieving their purpose, nor are parents fully realising their responsibilities, so long as children deemed suitable for the grammar school course abandon it prematurely" recently said Mr. D. R. Hardman, M.P., of the Ministry of Education.

He pointed out that although more boys and girls are staying at school until the Sixth form stage than before the war, there are signs that the number of "premature" leavers is increasing.

Some of us look on the "Sixth" as a sort of abode of the gods and, despairing of ever reaching such eminence, yield to the temptation to leave school quickly and earn money. Others, alas, must leave to help to pay their way in the family.

One thing is certain: those who stay on for the extra years will never regret it. Education is something to be prized for its own intrinsic worth, quite apart from its help towards material success in life.

Waistcoats are wanted

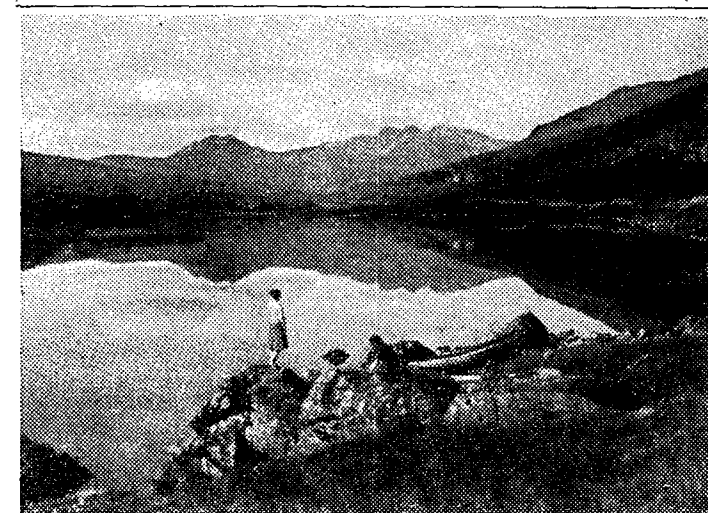
A WRITER in an Australian medical journal has condemned waistcoats. He maintains that they interfere with proper breathing, and advocates pullovers instead.

Well, fancy waistcoats are things of the past; but we think that ordinary waistcoats will die hard. How can a fellow keep a fountain pen in a pullover?

WITHIN THE SHADOW

Though the cause of evil prosper,
Yet this truth alone is strong;
Though her portion be the scaffold,
And upon the throne be wrong,
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
And, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow,
Keeping watch above his own.

J. R. Lowell



OUR HOMELAND

Snowdon, centre of a new National Park

The Children's Newspaper, July 14, 1951

THINGS SAID

Too much care by the State is damaging to the characters of young people unless they are taught that service for others is the most satisfying thing in life.

Field Marshall Lord Montgomery

AFTER getting most of the best jobs in England the Scots have gone farther afield and now hold leading positions on every continent.

Mr. Attlee

THE sailor of today must still possess the high technique of seamanship required in the past, and he must be something of a professor as well.

The Duke of Gloucester

IT is the young mother's duty to be at home in the afternoon to welcome her children from school and then to prepare the meal for them and the husband.

Lady Rhys-Williams

To eradicate from men's minds the lie of racial inequality we must make use of scientific knowledge. Our weapon must be the truth and nothing but the truth.

Director-General, Unesco

JUST AN IDEA

As George Meredith wrote: Expediency is man's wisdom; doing right is God's.

IN THE COUNTRY

IN July full summer is here, and Nature's great pageant of wonder rolls by. These long days seem all too brief, for there is so much to enjoy in the country; there is radiance everywhere, and flowers take on exotic hues, the delicate colourings of springtime having given place to richer and more brilliant tints.

In the cornfields poppies splash the green acres with crimson; their vivid banners in close-packed array add richness to the scene. Though so lovely a flower, the poppy has little to recommend it; birds, beasts, and insects shun it, and to the farmer it is a detested weed.

Across the valley, towards the stretch of cleared woodland, the hillside glows; acres of rose-bay willowherb spread radiant adornment. Fireweed is another name for this plant, for it thrives and increases in wild profusion on ground that has been swept by fire.

The Children's Newspaper, July 14, 1951

LITTLE REPUBLIC OF BOYS AND GIRLS

By a Special Correspondent

ALTHOUGH Monaco is generally regarded as the world's smallest republic, there is another even smaller community in America peopled entirely by boys and girls, where school attendance not only gives an education, but provides wages for the students as well.

This community is the George Junior Republic, a 550-acre tract of land near Freeville, New York State, where 125 American children work and learn democratic citizenship under a system of self-government. The young people have their own government, industries, currency, and social affairs.



A cabinet meeting in the George Junior Republic

Founded 55 years ago by an American businessman, Mr. William R. George, this smallest republic in the world has for its motto Nothing Without Work. The citizens of this community have to earn everything they require.

Parents are not allowed to send their children any money. This would cause inflation in the Republic's currency system, which resembles that of the U.S.A. Citizens operate it through a banking system of deposits and withdrawals, and can also borrow money for personal or business purposes. Packages and other articles brought in are subject to customs duty.

PRESIDENT AND CABINET

The President governs through an elected Cabinet, and plans all public works and enforces the Republic's laws through courts of justice. He appoints judges, district attorneys, and police officers, and is also responsible for levying Income Tax.

A wide field of business activity is carried on. Every service has to be self-supporting. When students attend school the teacher becomes the employer, and pays wages to the employees. Higher grades bring higher wages, and a boy or girl can rise to the ownership of an enterprise and employ labour.

Boys earn their livings by such occupations as farming, joinery, engineering, printing, plumbing, and lorry driving—and even as road-cleaners. Girls practise dressmaking and millinery, secretarial, banking, and postal services, and also work in sweet-making, photography, and beauty-parlour establishments.

OWN NEWSPAPER

There is scope for journalistic talent on the Republic's weekly newspaper Junior Citizen.

An ambitious citizen can bid for a contract of work, and, if successful, borrow capital from the bank to buy equipment and pay for labour. All such public works must serve a useful community purpose. The responsible contractor may make a profit, but can—and does sometimes—lose his investment and become bankrupt!

There is an active social life, of course. The boys and girls live in groups of from eight to 15 in

cottages, each under the supervision of a senior. Each group is responsible for maintenance, cleaning, and painting, and for the preparation of meals.

The Republic is non-sectarian, and citizens can attend their own churches, but there is a Community Church, which is run by the boys and girls themselves.

The lessons learnt of initiative, freedom, and self-reliance, allied to the idea of responsibility to the community in which they live, will be remembered all their lives by the boys and girls of G.J.R.

SEAGULL NESTS IN FISHING BOAT

Imagine the surprise of Mr. John Cotton, a fisherman of Mousehole, Cornwall, when he noticed a gull making obvious attempts to build a nest in his boat.

Six times he drove her off and



Moving the nest in the basket

threw the bits of sticks, seaweed, and straw out of his boat; but Mrs. Gull was determined to have her way and finished the nest one night. Then she laid an egg!

The boat was laid up with slight engine trouble and so Mrs. Gull was left in peace and soon produced two more eggs.

When the boat was ready for sea the basket containing the nest was transferred to another boat which would not be in use for several months. Mrs. Gull was not in the least put out, so to speak, and at once settled down in her new home.

Television Gay

All who watch "For the Children" on television will be as familiar with the attractive face of 15-year-old Jennifer Gay, as with her fresh young English voice. Her demure presence before the cameras has prompted many a viewer to remark, "How like Alice in Wonderland!"

The simile is not unmerited, for Jennifer, slightly hesitant in manner, and young-looking for her age, does indeed seem to have stepped straight from the pages of Lewis Carroll's Victorian fantasy.

Jennifer's first step on the ladder of success was taken when she acted as a bridesmaid at the wedding of Peter Thompson, senior producer of children's programmes on television.

Later, when he was looking for a young announcer, he decided to give Jennifer a chance. Her natural manner and good diction soon made her a firm favourite.

Besides announcing Children's Hour, Jennifer frequently appears in the programmes themselves. When in the summer of 1950 the new studios at Lime Grove were opened she was there to meet Mrs. Attlee.

She has travelled to Calais for television's first cross-Channel programme, appeared with young film stars Jeremy Spenser and Janette Scott (her close friend) in Play the Game, and is the children's regular visitor to the London Zoo.

A promising student at the Royal Academy of Dancing, she has appeared in the children's Ballet for Beginners series, Dancers of Tomorrow, and other television ballets.

Away from the studios Jennifer likes to relax in skirt and jumper, reading her books on ballet or the Royal Family, or engaged on her pet hobby—adding to her Prince Charles scrapbook.



Jennifer Gay

CYCLE SERVICE

15. Lamps and Lighting

Most front lamps for bicycles are of the twin-cell battery type, using a 2.5-volt bulb; the rear lamp usually has a single-cell battery lighting a 1.5-volt bulb.

A lower voltage bulb than the correct one may temporarily give a brighter light, but it will soon burn out. Spare bulbs should form part of your kit.

The battery terminals must be clean and bent to the right shape. Guard against rust and corrosion inside the lamp, leading to faulty connections.

Finally, ensure that the lamp brackets, front and rear, are firmly fitted. A loose bracket spells danger.

Rear lamps are compulsory. Use one not only to comply with the law but also for your own safety.

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# COCOS ISLANDS FOR AUSTRALIA

IN the Indian Ocean, half-way between Colombo in Ceylon and Fremantle in Australia, lies a group of about twenty coral islands called the Cocos-Keeling Group. They have been a colony of Great Britain for nearly a century, but are in future to be under the wing of Australia.

Cocos slumbered peacefully till the year 1607, its only inhabitants sea-birds and crabs such as the great hermit crab which feeds on coconuts. In that year a certain Captain Keeling of the East India Company first sighted the islands and had them named the Keeling Group. Then, for another 216 years, they went to sleep again until, on December 8, 1825, Captain Charles Clunies-Ross landed and made plans to establish himself and his family there.

Today his great-great-grandson, 22-year-old John, is still known as "King of the Cocos Islands." And it has been stated that under Australian rule his position will remain unchanged. It was in 1886, when control of the islands was being transferred from Ceylon to the Straits Settlements, that the head of the Clunies-Ross family was, under a Royal Charter, established as Ruler.

## FLYING PORT OF CALL

Darwin visited the islands in 1836 and studied the formation of the coral reefs, expounding his theory in a book six years later.

The main reason for the Australian Government's request for the island is that on one of them is an airstrip constructed for the R.A.F. during the last war. It is proposed to develop this for use on the Australia to South Africa air service.

Only three of the islands are habitable and they are overcrowded, but, nevertheless, the 1200 Cocos Islanders live a contented and trouble-free life. There are pensions for the old and infirm and medical attention is free. But, in fact, illness is almost unknown.

A good living standard and a simple code of laws have almost eliminated the need for a police force. There are no prisons, and

punishment, when necessary, is usually in the form of a fine. The natives are at liberty to leave the islands should they desire, and under an emigration scheme some 500 have been helped to settle at Tawau in South-west Borneo.

On Direction Island, the Cable and Wireless Company have established a station, and near here, in 1914, H.M.S. Sydney destroyed the German cruiser Emden.

Many of the islanders are fishermen, but the main industry is the collection and export of copra, of which about 500 tons are exported every year. They are looking forward to a red-letter day next year, when the King and Queen, voyaging to Australasia, will land on their shores.

The inhabitants are to be envied their peaceful life on these "Paradise Isles," where sea breezes keep the temperature below that usually experienced in the tropics, and where there are no seasons—only a perpetual summer!

## MORE SOUND IDEAS

A Texas factory has installed a special high-powered siren—not to sound the starting and finishing times but to clean the smoke from its chimneys!

The sound waves literally knock the smoke to pieces and precipitate out all the dirt or carbon. Not only does this reduce the smoke nuisance but the carbon so extracted is collected and sold. The sound emitted by the siren is about one hundred times as intense as that of a 2000 h.p. engine.

Another factory is using a similar sound-producer to dry sheets of paper. Sound waves striking the sheets cause them to vibrate, shaking out any water they hold.

## SHAGGY DOG YARN



Mrs. Luke, of Winscombe, Somerset, is here seen seated at her spinning wheel making yarn of the comings from her two Samoyeds. The skeins on the right have all been spun from the dogs' coats.



## AIRMEN RESCUED FROM DESERT

A realistic desert rescue exercise was recently undertaken in the Suez Canal zone. Twelve R A F officers who were supposed to have crash-landed were taken into the depths of the Sinai Desert, and left there with only emergency rations and one blanket each to await rescue.

After being marooned, the airmen first placed a look-out on a nearby hilltop and then set about making themselves comfortable in businesslike fashion. Strips of aeroplane fabric provided the material for emergency tents, tea was brewed on makeshift stoves, and the bitter chill of the desert night was warded off in sleeping holes dug in the sand surrounded by wind-breaking rocks.

Meanwhile, R A F Station Fayid had been warned that the men were down somewhere in the trackless waste of the desert. A Valetta aircraft took off in search of them, and within an hour the aircrew saw signals answering their own Verrey light.

The Valetta returned to base with the approximate position of the last party, and an Army lorry packed with provisions, radio equipment, and a Eureka wireless beacon to guide aircraft, immediately started off to the rescue. Meanwhile, more aircraft dropped stores to the grounded airmen.

After 17 gruelling hours of driving over difficult country the lorry reached the party and drove them back to Station Fayid—a round trip of about 250 miles.

## 37 YEARS IN FILMS

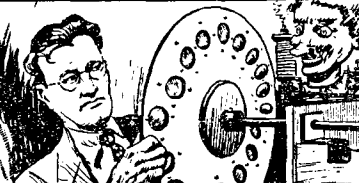
An American film actress, Gertrude Astor, is celebrating her 37th year in pictures. She was a star in the days of silent films and began her career in 1914, when she went to work for the old Biograph Company in California. Her first film was Under Two Flags, and she has appeared in 1000 others.

When wireless was in its infancy Baird thought not of sound but of vision. He dreamed of the day when moving pictures could be transmitted by wireless and seen on a screen miles away.



## Pioneers 54. John Logie Baird, who gave us television

With infinite patience and skill Baird applied himself to the seemingly insurmountable problems that beset his path.



On October 2, 1925, Baird had his great triumph. He had been trying to make the head of a ventriloquist's doll visible on a screen and on that day Television Jack appeared, the first face ever seen on a television screen.

Baird lived long enough to see the realisation of his dreams. For his outstanding life-work in developing the marvel of television he justly deserves a high place among the world's pioneers.



## WHEN THE RAINS CAME TO NORTH-WEST AUSTRALIA

The drought in the north of Western Australia has broken, writes a C N correspondent. Rains which in some places totalled eight inches have brought relief to more than 600,000 square miles of pasture land.

Seldom have rains of this magnitude extended over so wide an area, and in less than a week the countryside, long a scene of arid desolation, was under water. Heaviest falls were in the north-west, which normally relies on summer rain to see it through. This has meant a reprieve for thousands of sheep.

On one station where two years ago 30,000 sheep were shorn, shearing this year has been cancelled because the sheep were too weak to drive to the sheds. Many will still be lost, for some already shorn will die from wet and cold, and of those carrying a full fleece some may become waterlogged and have difficulty in keeping on their feet. Others will drown or become bogged.

But despite this farmers are well content, as without rain more sheep would have died from thirst and starvation, whereas now pasture and water are assured.

Sheep farmers were not the only people to suffer damage from

the rains, however. Throughout the north-west, 31 airports and airstrips were rendered unusable, and the population of the Wittemoon Gorge blue asbestos mine was without its weekly airlift supply of beef until planes could land again.

After heavy rain, dry northern rivers often turn to raging torrents in a few hours. Most of the rivers in the area are running bank high, and residents of Carnarvon, the port at the mouth of the Gascoyne River, which had not flowed for two years, were warned to expect a record flood. Feverish preparations were made. Wells sunk in the river bed were sealed, and pipes and pumping engines lifted in anticipation of a strong bank-to-bank flow.

## SHORT OF CATS

A Sydney resident who advertised that he had a kitten to give away was inundated with applications. All the applicants said that they had been trying for a week or more to get a cat.

In order to cut down the accident rate among the cats at Sydney Airport, the authorities have painted their ears with luminous paint, so that they are seen more easily in the dark.

Expected at midnight on June 8, the "little river"—water from small tributaries—arrived early, passed through the town, and reached the sea without incident. After it had passed, the crowd which had gathered to watch were able to catch with their hands, 18-inch freshwater mullet which were being washed down by the current.

The "big water," in places half-a-mile wide, 12 feet deep, and travelling at ten miles an hour, came down several hours later. The town was quickly inundated, nearly half of it being submerged.

Residents were warned that drinking water would be scarce until pumping engines could be retrieved from the flood to fill the storage tanks. The river, now 24 feet deep, is travelling at eight miles an hour, pouring from five to six billion gallons of water into the ocean each day. With only light following rains it will possibly flow for two years; without further rains it will dry up and become a chain of pools.

There has been much personal hardship and damage to property, mainly in the Carnarvon area, but had the rains not come when they did the hardships and damage would have been even worse.

## LEARNING ABOUT THE DOCKS

Schoolgirls ask more intelligent questions than their brothers—that is the finding of the Port of London officials responsible for running the popular round-the-docks cruises.

They hasten to add, however, that the questions they are asked are very intelligent all round. One boy inquired: "What would happen if I fell overboard?" "You'd get wet," was the hard-hearted answer, but this was immediately followed by a reassuring list of the ship's life-saving apparatus.

Some 550 schoolchildren at a time are carried by the dock cruises, which end in mid-July. They are always fully booked each year, and last year's "overflow" was over 5000; but late-comers get first chance the following season.

For Londoners who missed the docks cruise this year there is a free exhibition in the Port of London Authority building at Tower Hill, which is open until September.

Here a huge-scale model, fascinatingly pin-pointed with tiny models of ships and lighters, shows the complicated dock systems.

Another fascinating model shows how the Royal Victoria Dock has been modernised from the cut-up piece of water, like a stable with stalls, which it was in 1909, to the smooth sheet of water of the present day.

## MARKET FOR JUNIORS

After weeks of concentrated study the children attending the primary school at Frettenham, near Norwich, have made a miniature market-place under the guidance of their head teacher.

The lay-out is complete with stalls only eight inches high, gay with striped awnings and loaded with all sorts of goods. Shoppers and pedestrians have their place in this attractive miniature setting.

## VICE VERSA—F. ANSTEY'S AMUSING SCHOOL STORY TOLD IN PICTURES (3)

Pompous Mr. Bultitude had been transported by a magic stone into his son's body, and found himself on his way to boarding school, while Dick remained at home in his father's

body and clothes. The victim of this strange transformation resolved that as soon as he could get the Headmaster alone, he would explain what had happened. Meanwhile, he

thought it best to let Dr. Grimstone gradually realise that he was not really a boy at all, but an elderly man. So he began talking as one important man of affairs to another.



"You're a smoker, of course, Dr. Grimstone?" said Mr. Bultitude airily. "I think I can give you a cigar you'll appreciate." He felt for his cigar case, but of course it was not in Dick's clothes. The other boys giggled, and Dr. Grimstone replied: "If I did not know that this was ill-timed buffoonery, and not an intentional insult, I should be seriously angry. . . . But be very careful." Mr. Bultitude felt crushed.



He tried again. "I'm sorry to inconvenience you, Dr. Grimstone," he said, "but I positively must ask you either to allow me to have this window up or to change places with you. The night air, sir, at this time of year is fatal, my doctor tells me, simply fatal to a man of my constitution." The Head glared at him and pulled up the window. "I warn you, Bultitude," he said, "that you are acting very imprudently."



Mr. Bultitude hated the smell of peppermints and had sacked office boys for eating them. "Do you encourage your boys to make common nuisances of themselves?" he fumed. "That boy's sucking an infernal peppermint strong enough to throw the train off the rails!" The Head had strictly forbidden sweets as "self-indulgence." He took Coggs's peppermints and threw them out of the window.



At Rodwell Regis the Head sent Coker, Coggs, and Mr. Bultitude on to tell his wife, at the school, that the others were coming. Round the corner the pair grabbed him, and Coker demanded: "Now, then, young Bultitude. . . what did you go and sneak on him for?" They twisted his arms and gave him a sharp jog behind. "You little brute!" cried Mr. Bultitude. "I could have you up for assault for that."

How will the transformed city man get on with his schoolmates? See next week's instalment



The Children's Newspaper, July 14, 1951

# Sailing with The Gang

BY PETER DAWLISH

## 4. The Marooned Egg-Stealer

*The Gang—Joe and Sal Parker, Dick Youle, Dan Stevens, and Jack Petersen, the captain—are now skilled navigators of their 12-foot sailing dinghy. In the following story they teach a lesson to an older lad whose activities are not so meritorious as their own.*

EVEN before the Migrant had reached the small headland which still hid Black Rock from the five children in the twelve-foot sailing dinghy, they could all see the gulls whirling and diving in the sky and could hear the birds protesting noisily.

"Hullo, looks like trouble among the gulls," commented Dick Youle, looking upwards.

"Having a row with the rooks," Joe Parker suggested, from where he sat forward.

Sal, his sister, seated with Jack Peterson, the oldest of the children and their accepted leader, sniffed.

"It isn't any rook," she declared angrily. "It's that beastly boy. I wish they'd peck out his eyes."

"Bloodthirsty, aren't you?" her brother retorted. "I suppose you never took a bird's egg?"

"I have so," his sister threw back at him. "But I don't go robbing nests of all their eggs and throwing them away. There will be no gulls left on Black Rock if he isn't stopped."

JACK spared a glance from his task of watching the edge of the white sail and holding the boat on her course to look upwards at the white birds. He frowned.

"Yes, it is a shame," he agreed. "I'd like to teach him a lesson."

"Only he is fifteen, and twice the weight of any of us," Dick Youle said ruefully.

Dan Stevens, seated forward with Joe, leaned forward. His eyes were eager.

"I could borrow my father's shot gun," he offered.

Joe and Dick laughed, and Sal gave a hoot.

"Then we would be in trouble," she joked.

Dan blushed and sat looking ashamed. He seemed always to say and do the wrong thing. Then he glowered.

"Well, no one else seems to have any ideas," he complained.

THE dinghy was clearing the headland now, about a quarter of a mile from it and with the wind coming almost dead astern as Jack put his tiller over.

He could not look at the Black Rock, a huge mass of granite thrusting almost as an island from the shore, for with this fair wind a careless moment might let the boat swing and the wind get on the other side of her sail, causing a gibe that would bring the sail and its boom over with a crash. But he heard the cry his Gang raised and felt the boat tilt as Sal stood up excitedly.

"Sit down, Sal!" he shouted. "Don't you know better than to stand up in a small boat?"

She sat down at once.

"Sorry," she said humbly. "But it looks as though that horrible boy is in trouble."

"He is waving," Dick cried.

"He's stuck on a ledge," added Joe.

"Hurrah!" Sal shouted spitefully. "Pretend we don't see him."

The Black Rock was almost right ahead of the dinghy and hidden by the sail from where Jack sat, so he headed the Migrant to seaward, bringing the wind on the port quarter. Now he could look with safety. Yes, sure enough, a figure showed against the granite, a good fifteen feet from the water's edge and on a

### BACK NEXT WEEK



More tales of the Gallant Third of Milbourne begin on this page next week.

ledge the children knew well, though they had never dared climb there.

Jack noticed Dan Stevens rubbing his hands delightedly, and knew that at least two of his crew had no wish to help the marooned egg-thief. That the boy on the ledge was marooned was clear, for he was waving desperately to them.

JACK heaved a sigh of regret.

"I suppose we must rescue him," he said almost sorrowfully.

Sal turned to him indignantly.

"You shall not," she declared.

"Let him stay there for a night."

### YOUNG QUIZ



1. Which sport is played with a puck?
2. Which county has the Red Rose for its emblem?
3. Who said: "A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse"?
4. Who was John Gilpin?
5. Febrile means—charming, rotund, or feverish?
6. What is an anemometer?
7. A Camberwell Beauty is—a rose, a Pearly Queen, or a butterfly?
8. What is the world's highest mountain?

Answers on page 11

Perhaps that will cure him of stealing eggs and smashing them.

Jack looked at the others in turn, but found no encouragement for his good-natured proposal. They looked at him questioningly, ready to accept his orders but showing they agreed with Sal's stern measure. Jack shook his head.

"We couldn't do that," he said. "He might fall off and be drowned. I know he can't swim very well."

"And good riddance," retorted the merciless Sal.

"Well, leave him there for an hour or so," Dick suggested.

They heard the stranded boy now. He was yelling and gesticulating. They could see him clearly.

"He looks really afraid," commented Joe. "And listen to him yell."

"We ought to teach him some sort of lesson," Sal maintained. "Besides, we'll damage the Migrant against the rocks if we get too close."

Dan made another suggestion, watching Sal nervously as he did so.

"Couldn't we make him promise not to touch the nests again if we take him off?" he asked meekly.

Sal's sniff was almost a snort.

"As though that sort of boy would keep promises," she said contemptuously. Then she noticed Jack was smiling. She bridled indignantly. "And what's so funny?" she demanded.

"I've just remembered," the boy replied mildly, holding his face straight. He winked to them all. "Stand by to lower the sail."

Now that they had to be a crew they watched him silently. Jack put down his tiller, and the Migrant spun round into the wind, the sail fluttering. A sharp command from Jack and it was lowered and gathered to its boom. He gave the orders for out oars, and Dan and Dick shipped the rowlocks and slid out the two oars. Joe had gone forward to the bows. Before Jack gave the order to pull on the oars, he looked sternly at his friends.

"Let me do the talking," he ordered.

He gave the order, "Oars," and then, "Up together," and the other two boys gave a strong thrust and the Migrant shot ahead.

"Easy, there," Jack said. "I don't want to go too near."

The boat nosed towards the great mass of granite, and when it was some twenty feet from the sheer base Jack gave the order to cease rowing. Then he looked up at the boy on the ledge. The boy grinned back somewhat uneasily. He knew the Gang disliked his pillaging of the gulls' nests.

"Thanks, mates," he cried. "Can you throw me up a rope to fasten here and slide down?"

Jack shook his head. "We can't," he said. "We daren't go right in because of the rocks."

"Yes, you can," the boy on the ledge argued. "It is deep water right close up. I know this place."

"But I don't," Jack retorted. "And I'm not going to risk this boat."

Continued on page 10

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# ZIRCONIUM IS USEFUL AFTER ALL

The metal zirconium was first isolated by the Swedish chemist Berzelius in 1824, but it was little more than a chemical curiosity until about 20 years ago.

The first incandescent gas mantle, invented by Otto von Welsbach, was impregnated with zirconium oxide, but otherwise little use was found either for the metal or its compounds. Even in gas mantles, thorium and cerium oxides replaced that of zirconium.

Then it was discovered that zirconia, the oxide, was a good refractory and would resist high temperatures and sudden changes of temperature. It became increasingly useful for making crucibles which would have to stand up to such conditions, such as those used for the melting of platinum and other metals with very high melting-points. Zirconia is also used in making paints and enamels and electrical insulators.

But all attempts to obtain satisfactory specimens of the metal itself failed. It could be obtained in the form of a very fine powder, which found a limited use as a flash powder for photographic

work. Larger specimens of the metal proved too brittle, for zirconium so easily combines with oxygen and nitrogen, forming impurities which set up this brittleness.

However, even this property of the metal enabled it to be used to take up bubbles of nitrogen and oxygen which spoilt certain classes of steel.

Last year a British firm succeeded in manufacturing good specimens of the metal in rod, sheet, and wire forms. Unlike the powder, these specimens proved inert and resist corrosion even by the strongest acids. Because human flesh will grow closer to it than to any other metal it will prove invaluable for joining broken bones by wire or internal splints.

Found mainly in Australia and Brazil, ore of zirconium is more plentiful than the ores of copper, lead, or zinc. It is lighter and less expensive than the metals platinum and tantalum, so it is now likely to supersede them not only for medical purposes but in electrical and chemical industries.

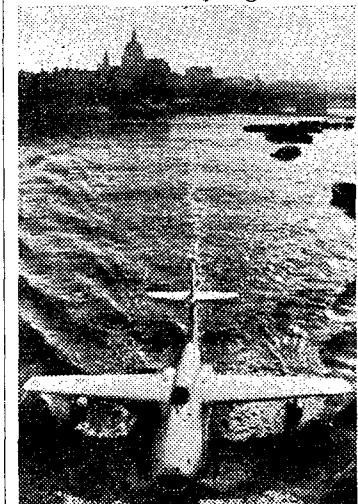
## CHURCHILL TOBY

There is a revival in that most English of pottery products, the Toby jug.

The most popular Festival souvenir has proved to be the Churchill jug, depicting the great statesman with hat and ever-present cigar, but with his knees drawn up to his chin in the traditional Toby-jug manner.

Running him a close second are the Montgomery and Marshal Smuts jugs, while others whose features have been so immortalised include Dr. Johnson, Mr. Pickwick, Falstaff, the Vicar of Bray, John Barleycorn, Drake, Dick Turpin, and Toby Philpots, famed in the eighteenth-century song as "a prodigious consumer of strong ale"—a reputation which of course does not apply to the twentieth-century Toby subjects!

## First Jet Flying Boat



The Saunders Roe A1, the world's first jet flying-boat, on the River Thames in London.

## SAILING WITH THE GANG

Continued from page 9

"Then how can I get in with you?" the other shouted angrily. Jack smiled then.

"Why, jump into the water," he declared, "and swim to us."

A gasp of horror greeted this suggestion, and the boy roared his dislike of the plan. Jack looked at him sternly.

"Come on," he ordered. "Hurry. The tide is going down and the longer you stay the higher and farther you'll have to come."

Sal looked up and saw the gulls still wheeling overhead and screaming. She gave a little nod, to tell them they were being revenged.

She heard a loud splash and then a spluttering, and there was the egg-thief splashing and kicking up a tremendous fuss in the water. He looked so frightened and he sank so often that even the merciless Sal began to get worried for his safety, for Jack seemed in no hurry to save the boy.

At last he called to Joe to throw the floundering boy a rope's end, and soon they had him alongside the boat. He was a miserable sight. The children hauled him on board, and Jack gave the order to row back to the Cove. The rescued boy sat shivering in his misery, too cowed to be the tough he thought himself.

When the Migrant's keel touched the shore he climbed over the bows and was gone, running towards his home. When he was far up the steep road from the Cove Sal turned to Jack in mock indignation.

"You could," she said accusingly, "have taken the Migrant right under the ledge and thrown him a rope. There was lots of water there."

"Was there?" Jack asked innocently. "Why didn't you tell me?"

And then they all doubled over in laughter.

# SPORTS SHORTS

**EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD** June Knight, of Wales, recently became the second woman to swim the 10½-mile length of Lake Windermere. Her time of 8 hours 28 minutes was about two hours better than the previous woman's record swim, made last year.

**THE** big sporting event this weekend will be the A.A.A. Championships at the White City. This meeting always attracts a big crowd, for the Championships always produce some of the keenest rivalry of the whole season. A "Three A's" title is the ambition of every British athlete.

The mile should prove to be "the race of the season," for the starters are likely to include Roger Bannister, who is in such grand form; Chris Chataway; Bill Nankeville, holder of the A.A.A. mile title; Len Eyre, of Yorkshire; and H. J. Parlett, the former half-mile champion.

**ON** July 16 a party of 22 young men will fly from this country to South Africa. They are members of a combined Oxford and Cambridge Rugby team who are to play a series of matches against South African University sides. The party will include the complete Oxford XV which beat Cambridge in the last inter-Varsity match, together with several outstanding Light Blues.

**ONE** of the most successful tug-o-war teams in the country is composed of eight brothers, whose ages range from 17 to 41. They are the Barber brothers, of Great Totham, near Maldon, Essex. Three years ago they entered the tug-o-war event at a village fête and won the competition. Since then they have won dozens of prizes throughout Essex.

**ARTHUR FAGG**, the popular Kent opening batsman, is hoping for fine weather this week-end, for he is due to take his benefit at Maidstone, in the match against Warwickshire. Starting his career with Kent in 1932, Fagg has now scored nearly 20,000 runs in first-class cricket. In 1938, against Essex, he set up a batting record—a double century (244 and 202 not out) in each innings.

**AT** 19, Alan Jay is one of Britain's most promising fencers. Recently he won the junior épée championship, a great credit to his coaches at an L.C.C. evening recreational institute. Alan has represented England and Australia (during a stay in that country), and last year he won the individual épée title at the Macabiah Games in Israel.

**ROY PANKHOUSE**, 18-year-old Bexhill Grammar School boy, is a "Jack-of-all-sports"—and master of most of them, too. Recently he gained his East Sussex County athletics colours by setting up a new record of 53.3 seconds for the 440 yards. Roy has played cricket for the Sussex Young Amateurs and soccer in representative games for the Sussex A.C.F. He has also appeared for Bexhill in senior cricket and football.



# CN Bookshelf

## FOR YOUNG ARTISTS

Water-colour For Beginners, by Francis Russell Flint (The Studio, 15s.)

THE 40th volume in the popular How To Do It series gives a practical introduction to the fascinating but elusive medium. Sixteen varied examples are reproduced in colour, with a commentary by the author—son of one of the greatest water-colourists of our time.

## AMONG REDSKINS

Bay of the North, by Ronald Syme (Hodder & Stoughton, 6s.)

WRITTEN in the style of a thrilling yarn of adventure in French Canada three centuries ago, this is actually the true story of the life of Pierre Radisson, who was captured by Indians and brought up by them. He lived to become a famous explorer of the wilds between the Great Lakes and Hudson Bay.

## FOR YOUR LEISURE

The Boy's Book of Sport, by Carlton Wallace (Ward Lock, 12s. 6d.)

THIS is an excellent book, with excellent diagrams, showing how a boy can get the best out of his particular sporting activities. Nearly 40 outdoor games and sports are dealt with, as well as several indoor games, such as table tennis and chess, and there is also an admirable section on the most important art of Keeping Fit.

## CRASHER WILSHAW

The Golden Buddha, by Captain A. O. Pollard, V.C., M.C., D.C.M. (Hutchinson, 6s.)

"CRASHER" Wilshaw, the investigator of aircraft accidents, gets on to the trail of a first-class mystery when a plane crashes in Surrey and the pilot disappears. Assisted by a bright boy named George Appleton, he saves an innocent man by finding the real criminal.

## PANTOMIME PANORAMA

The Sleeping Beauty, illustrated by Roland Pym; Puss in Boots, illustrated by Kathleen Hale (Chatto & Windus, 7s. 6d. each.)

THESE Peepshow Books, which when opened display panorama pictures skilfully arranged in depth, like miniature theatre settings, will enthral all the very young.

## GETTING TO KNOW PONIES

A-Riding We Will Go, by Marjorie Mary Oliver, illustrated by Stanley Lloyd (Lutterworth Press, 8s. 6d.)

THIS is a book not only for those lucky boys and girls who have ponies of their own, but for many others who long to ride, and are shy because they are such novices. Even if you have never ridden in your life, you can learn with the two girls in Marjorie Oliver's book.

## GUIDE TO READING

Enjoying Books, by Geoffrey Trease (Phoenix House Ltd., 7s. 6d.)

THE creator of The Silver Gentleman—the Elizabethan gallant whose adventures will thrill CN readers again this autumn—is not only an able writer of the historical mystery novel; he is also a deep student of books in general, and in these pages he proves himself a reliable guide to young people seeking those works from which they will derive true and lasting pleasure.

## PARTNERSHIP

Man's Modern Miracles—or God's? by A. M. Young (Stockwell, 7s. 6d.)

A PLAIN and simple exposition of all kinds of scientific wonders and inventions, with the needful reminder that "all things were made by Him." In addition to the interest and instruction contained in these outlines of such subjects as electronics, astronomy, photography, flying, and atomic energy, the theme offers splendid material for the members of youth organisations and discussion groups.

## GIRLS CHANGE PLACES

The Amazing Affair at Highlands, by Elizabeth Tarrant (Evans Brothers, 5s.)

THIS is another of the popular stories about Highlands School. A girl who wants to go there, and another who would prefer to go into business, decide to impersonate each other. The consequences make an exciting yarn.

## NEW FOURTH-FORMER

Ray's First Term, by Olive L. Groom (Pickering & Inglis, 4s.)

BROUGHT up in lonely luxury by her sour old grandfather, Ray Drake had much to learn—and unlearn—when she joined her cousin at Dene. But the school won in the end.

## KON-TIKI & RON-TIKI

Three on a Raft, by Rose Brown (Hodder & Stoughton, 7s. 6d.)

ALL who were thrilled by the epic of the Kon-Tiki, the raft that crossed the Pacific, will enjoy this story about a boy named Ron who, seeing the Kon-Tiki before she sailed, was inspired to build a similar one for a voyage on a river. The adventures of Ron, Carlos, and Rosa on their Ron-Tiki make an exciting yarn.

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS

SWIMMING. The official coaching book of the English Schools' Swimming Association. (Naldrett Press, 7s. 6d.)

THE ART OF SWIMMING AND DIVING, by Edna Child. (Thorsons, 7s. 6d.)

THE EMETT FESTIVAL RAILWAY, by Rowland Emmett and Victor Keeling. (A Puffin Cut-Out Book, 2s. 6d.)

THE BIBLE QUIZ BOOK, by Sid G. Hedges. (Pilgrim Press, 6s.)

THE COLLECTOR'S HANDBOOK. Edited by C. J. Kabery. (Oxford University Press, 8s. 6d.)

FLOWERS TO COLOUR, FARM ANIMALS TO COLOUR, FAN-FAN THE TULIP. (Painting Books published by The Studio 3s. 6d. each.)

TOM BROWN'S SCHOOL-DAYS, by Thomas Hughes. Film Edition. (Ward Lock, 8s. 6d.)

KING SOLOMON'S MINES, by Rider Haggard. Film Edition. (Ward Lock, 8s. 6d.)

CHICO OF THE ANDES, a tale of Ecuador, by Christine von Hagen. (Robert Hale, 7s. 6d.)

## YOUNG QUIZ—Answers

- 1 Ice hockey.
- 2 Lancashire.
- 3 Shakespeare's Richard III.
- 4 Hero of a famous poem by William Cowper.
- 5 Feverish.
- 6 An instrument for measuring the force or the speed of the wind.
- 7 A butterfly.
- 8 Mount Everest.

## CN COMPETITION WINNERS

The Prize Radio offered as First Prize in No. 2 of our new series of competitions has been won by Stella A. Sterman,

24, Firs Glen Road, Bournemouth,

whose solution to the puzzle was correct and the most neatly written according to age.

The following entrants, who came next in order of merit, have each been awarded a Fountain Pen:

William Baron, Wigan; Richard Bird, Ashford; John Bruce, Leicester; Diane Crone, Northolt; Christopher Crossley, Altrincham; William S. Donald, Aberdeen; Elizabeth Gordon, Nottingham; T. P. Haslam, Southport; Ian Hird, Keith; Peter A. Holmes, Malmesbury; Roger Leighton, Wakefield; Jean Moir, Dundee; George Murray, Paisley; John Pearson, Cleethorpes; Valerie Quartly, Aylesbury; Kenneth Robertson, Leven; Keith Smith, Hemel Hempstead; Peter Wesley Scragg, Piddley; David Trickey, Bembridge; W. Walker-Morison, Cupar.

The correct solution was: 1 School sign. 2 Boy Scout. 3 Wind stocking. 4 Plimsoll line. 5 Loading gauge. 6 Festival of Britain. 7 Lieutenant - Commander. 8 Learner-driver. 9 Hallmark. 10 Storm cone.

## FILLING STATION AFLOAT

Good Service is the apt name chosen for the barge which is being used as the first floating filling station on the Thames. Topped by two ordinary kerbside-type pumps, the barge supplies diesel fuel to the Thames water buses and other pleasure craft.

The fuel is pumped out by the electric pumps at a rate of 20 gallons a minute. In addition, vapourised oil is supplied through hand-operated pumps.

The Good Service is stationed in the King's Reach, just below Westminster Bridge. It is an adaptation of the fleet oil carriers which go out to meet warships.

## COLOURFUL NAMES

Watermoss, Sunspray, Green Wave, Pond Lily Pink, and Rain-drop Blue are five of the 1952 colours just announced by the Textile Colour Card Association of the United States.

Greens, we are assured, will be popular next spring. Iced Lime, Tropic Mint, Nile Lily, and Egypt Green are among them.

Truly, the new names are as colourful as the new colours they describe. What could be more descriptive, for example, than Strawberry Glacé Pink, Coraline Red, or Blush Heather?

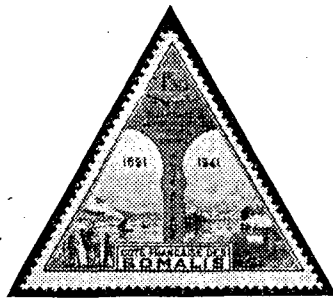
## 16-YEAR-OLD ORGANIST

To be appointed paid church organist and choirmaster at the age of 16 is a distinction; and it is one which belongs to Jim McAvoy, a CN reader who plays the organ and is in charge of the adult choir at St. Brendan's, Sydenham, Belfast.

Probably the youngest church organist in Northern Ireland, he received his first appointment as organist at Ballyculter Church, County Down. He started learning to play the piano when he was five.

Jim is also a corporal in the Boys' Brigade and has won its highest award, the King's Badge.

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The Windsor Stamp Co. will send **ABSOLUTELY FREE** to all who ask to see a Selection of Windsor Stamps on Approval two terrific TRIANGULARS. One is a FRENCH SOMALI COAST Air Mail Commemorative inscribed 1891/1947, issued by the wartime Vichy Government, who were unable to place the stamps on sale in the colony, and showing Obock and Djibouti and an aeroplane, train, ships and camels. The other triangular shows Franklin D. Roosevelt and was issued in 1946 by MONACO in tribute to the memory of the famous American President. Both will add great interest to YOUR COLLECTION. To get YOURS—send NOW; just write for Free Triangular Packet and ask to see a Selection of Windsor Stamps on Approval. Send 2½d. stamp for postage.

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BERKELEY STAMP CO. (CN), Newton, West Kirby, Cheshire

## 1951—HOLY YEAR STAMPS—1951

Exceptionally beautiful set of very large bi-coloured stamps including 2 Triangulars issued by MONACO together with 15 other different stamps offered absolutely FREE to all who request our High Discount Approvals. Please enclose 3d. stamp for postage and packing.

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GAME OF SKILL—Refuse Imitations

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Send 2d. stamp for further details  
Obtainable from leading toy shops.



## THE BRAN TUB

### FLANAGAN'S PLEA

MANY years ago in Australia the postman only called on outlying districts once a month, so it was a calamity to be away at one's diggings and miss the month's mail.

One old-timer named Flanagan put outside his cabin a dishpan and a note to the postman which read:

*Will His Majesty's Postman con-*

*descend*  
*Over his horse's neck to bend*  
*And place within this humble pan*  
*Letters and parcels for Flanagan.*

### Puzzle for Botanists

The following passage hides eight parts of flowers. Can you find them?

WHEN Mary Contrary went to plant her cockleshells she heard two soldiers talking. "I once went into a Chinese palace," said one of them, "and saw a huge carpet all covered with scenes of peasant life. One showed how boys tame newly-captured ponies. A little while afterwards I saw the Emperor's golden carp elegantly swimming in a crystal bowl. Sometimes when asleep I still see these strange sights before my eyes."

Answer next week

## BEDTIME CORNER

### Fiona finds a friend

WHEN Fiona's Daddie got a job in another town the family had to move there, and Fiona missed all her little friends very much.

"Never mind," said Mummie. "When school starts you'll soon make lots of new ones."

But that was not for another few weeks. So, to cheer Fiona up, Mummie played all kinds of games with her whenever she could. Even when they were out shopping they played games—guessing games, such as: "Which is the quickest way to the butchers?" and "What are the names of all the houses between ours, and the Recreation Ground right up the road?"

This last was a favourite game, and it turned out to be a lucky one for Fiona, too. For one morning, when she and Mummie were hurrying home to get Daddie's dinner ready, an elderly lady carrying an umbrella and a basket, and looking so tired, stopped them.

"Can you tell me where a house called Pambula is?" she asked despairingly. "I'm

a stranger here, and the bus conductor put me off at the wrong place, and no one seems to know the house."

"Why, it's the last but one up by the Recreation Ground," said Fiona eagerly.

"Suppose you go along with this lady, and show her," Mummie suggested. So off Fiona went.

"Let me carry your basket," she suggested at once.

"Oh, thank you," the old lady replied gratefully. "There's a kitten in it which I'm taking to my little great-niece, Sally. She's in bed with an injured leg; that's why her Mummie couldn't meet me at the station."

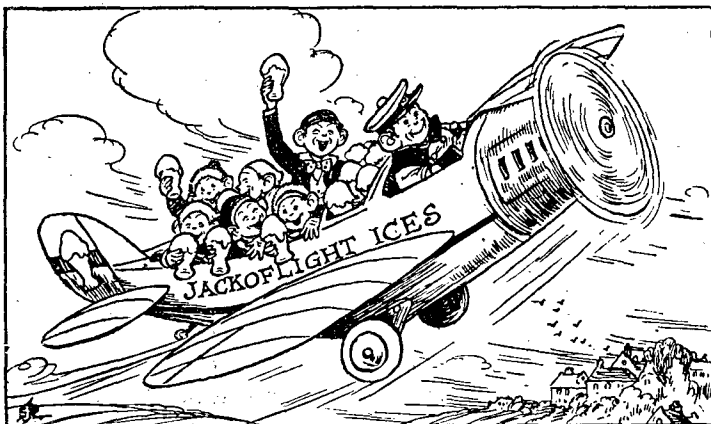
"Never mind," said Fiona. "And here we are. Good-bye. I must run or I'll be late for dinner."

But next day Fiona and her Mummie were invited to tea at Pambula. At once Fiona made friends with Sally and her kitten; and soon, when Sally was better, they were all having great times together.

JANE THORNICROFT



## JACKO RISES TO THE OCCASION



One enterprising firm in Jackotown had found a new way to attract young aeronauts—they gave away ice creams before every trip. Jacko, needless to say, was among the first to get his free ice. He thoroughly enjoyed the trip, and then discovered that if he did not give up his ticket he could get another ice cream and another ride. Three times he repeated this procedure—then spent the rest of the day in bed recovering.

### MIND THE STEP

"How did Johnnie get his knees scraped?" asked Father.

"You see those steps there?" asked Mother.

"Yes."

"Well, Johnnie didn't."

### What am I?

My first is company.

My second shuns company.

My third summons company.

My whole puzzles company.

Answer next week

### Imagination

SAMMY SIMPLE'S friend had told him that the axis of the Earth is an imaginary line drawn from pole to pole.

"Could you hang clothes on such a line?" asked Sammy.

"Yes," said his friend.

"Really? What sort?"

"Imaginary clothes!"

### COUNTRYSIDE FLOWERS

GOUTWEED is a common plant found by roadsides and in hedgebanks. The small white

flowers grow in large clusters at the end of green umbrella-like spokes. The grooved stem of this plant is hollow, and its soft pale-green leaves are similar to rose leaves. There is a broad sheath where each leaf joins the main stem.

The name Goutweed is probably due to an old belief that the plant's juices would cure gout.

Illustration of a Goutweed plant with its characteristic umbrella-like leaves and a hollow stem.

### CHAIN QUIZ

The answers to the clues below are linked together, the last two letters of the first answer being the first two of the next, and so on.

1. Central character in old legend, a scholar who sold his soul to the Devil; subject of plays by Goethe and Marlowe, and of many operas.

2. Optical instrument by which light is analysed into its colours; by its means helium was known to exist in the sun before its discovery in our own atmosphere.

3. Knight of Arthur's Round Table; one of the only three who ever saw the Holy Grail; the hero (spelling of name slightly changed) of Wagner's last opera.

4. English king famous for his successful struggle against the Danes, his wise laws, and his learning; notorious (according to legend) for his cookery!

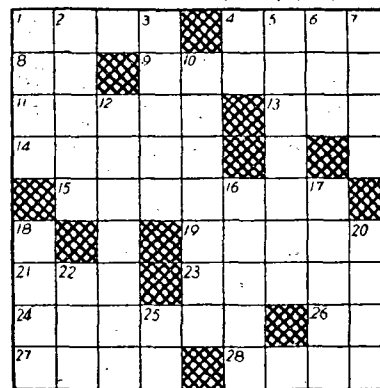
Answer next week

## Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Recess. 4 Measure of land. 8 Royal Engineers (abbrev.). 9 Fastened. 11 They support the sails. 13 Uneven. 14 You do this every night. 15 Steps. 19 Oxidises. 21 Sicken. 23 Way in. 24 Fold. 26 United Nations (abbrev.). 27 Trial. 28 Identical.

READING DOWN. 1 You have two of these. 2 Ringings. 3 Go in. 4 South American sloth. 5 Near-east. 6 Colour. 7 Small whirlpool. 10 Aims. 12 Decides. 16 Sand mounds. 17 Pluck. 18 Diplomacy. 20 Auld Lang. 22 Anger. 25 Preposition. Answer next week.

The Children's Newspaper, July 14, 1951



### No joke

"I'm all for fun," said Peter Puck, "But one thing makes me bitter, When picnic people have gone home; To see their ugly litter."

### DUCKS AND DRAKE

CRIED a careless old cyclist named Drake:

"There is something amiss with my brake!"  
Soon there came a loud crash,  
And a very big splash,  
As poor Drake joined the ducks on the lake.

### Riddle-my-name

My first is in rush, not in reed;  
My second's in pearl and in bead;  
My third is in Angle, not Jute;  
My fourth is in whistle and flute;  
My fifth is in chaffinch and chough;  
My sixth is in sneeze, not in snuff;  
My last is in squire, not in knight.  
This girl should bring luck if she's white.

Answer next week

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

THE SPOTTED FLY-CATCHER. On an old post in the orchard, Don often saw a greyish-brown bird, scarcely six inches long, with white underparts. What interested Don most was the skill which the bird displayed in its pursuit of flies. It would twist, dart, and turn in the most astonishing manner.

"It is a spotted flycatcher," commented Farmer Gray, when told about the entertaining feathered performer.

"These little summer visitors usually have a favourite spot, from which they hawk for insects. The spotted flycatcher's call-note is a high squeak; its song is low and scarcely noticeable."

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Riddle-my-name. Alexander

Bookworm. 52 pages. (Look at a bookshelf)

Match square

First remove top left and bottom right corner matches, and then others as in diagram

Chain Quiz

Persephone, Newgate, Gemini, Templars



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**22/6 DEPOSIT**  
Cash Price £8/12/6  
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**AUSTRALIAN PURE HEAVY FLANNEL ARMY GREY SHIRTS**  
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Collar attached. Sizes 13 1/2 to 17 1/2. BRAND-NEW limited stock. The material alone is worth double. Unshrinkable. Perfect fitting and will last years, but you must send quickly. Breast pocket.

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Made from pure worsted closely woven material that costs today not less than 25/- per yard. Magnificently tailored with broad Peter-sham inner band for perfect fitting and grip. A popular shade of blue grey of definitely fashionable length. Without doubt the finest skirt bargain ever offered. If you like smartness do not hesitate to send for one of these skirts and incidentally what wonderful material. Sizes from 22 in. up to 25 in. waist. 9/11. Post, etc., 9d.

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Send for Illustrated free list or inspect Tents, Fly-Sheets, Marquees, Camping equipment, Binoculars, Tarpaulls, Clothing, Kapok-quilted sleeping bags, Cameras, Tennis Racquets, etc. TERMS.

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A wonderful air cushion, folds up for the pocket, inflated in a few seconds, making hardest form or seat comfortable and soft. Real rubber, NOT fabric. For holidays, motorists, invalids or office use.

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